

WITHNELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR. 1950.

To the Chairman and Members of  
THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WITHNELL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the health of the Urban District of Withnell for the year 1950.

The statistics relating to Births and Deaths supplied by the Registrar General and the County Health Department, together with particulars of Infectious Diseases and Sanitary circumstances of the District will be found in the Report. Comparability factors for adjustment of local Births and Deaths rates are also supplied by the Registrar General. These factors take into account the varying population constitution including sex and age distribution to make these figures of every district comparable with the death rate of the Country as a whole, or with similarly adjusted rates for other areas.

BIRTHS.

The number of registered live births assignable to the District during the year 1950 was 51, being an increase of 4 on the previous year. The live birth rate for the district calculated on population corresponds to 17.8 for 1,000. The rate for the previous year was 16.3. The adjusted birth rate using the comparability factor referred to above is 17.2. The live birth rate for England and Wales for the year 1950 was 15.8.

INFANT DEATHS.

Unfortunately I have to report that during the year there were 3 deaths of infants under one year of age. There were no such deaths during the previous year.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

It is, however, pleasing to report that there were again no deaths from diseases or accidents of child birth or pregnancy.

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS.

There was one death from Tuberculosis during the year 1950. In the year 1949 there were two deaths from this cause.

TOTAL DEATHS.

The total number of deaths assignable to the district for the year 1950 was 41, being a decrease of 8 on the previous year. The death rate for the district calculated on population is 14.3 per 1,000. The rate for the previous year was 17.0. The death rate using the comparability factor is 13.9. The death rate for England and Wales as a whole for the year 1950 was 11.6 per 1,000 population.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified was 26 as compared with 151 in the year 1949. The number of cases of Scarlet Fever was 13 against 35 in the previous year. There were no cases of Diphtheria or Poliomyelitis.



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

In recent years the pendulum has swung in favour of the curative services. Without in any way detracting from the importance of these latter services, it is important that the value of the preventive services should not be under-estimated. A high standard of environment hygiene may well reduce the burden on the curative services.

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES.

The Urban District of Withnell is in Health Division 4 for purposes of the Health Services provided by the Lancashire County Council.

In concluding these remarks I would like to express my gratitude to the Chairman and Members for the kind consideration shown to me. I also wish to record my indebtedness to Dr. Doherty and Mr. Gregson for their valuable co-operation and assistance.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) J.WALKER.

Medical Officer of Health.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30288022>



SECTION.A.STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the district is 4,190 acres. The population figure at the 1931 Census was 3,040. For 1950 the Registrar General calculated the population as 2,870.

The Rateable Value was £12,809 and a penny rate produced £52.

The chief industries are Paper Making, Quarrying, a Saw Mill and Cotton Mills. There has been no change in social conditions.

VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>		
Legitimate.	49	31	18	Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population mid 1949	
Illegitimate	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>		<u>17.8</u>
	<u>51</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>20</u>		
<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	1	-	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)births	<u>19</u>
<u>DEATHS.</u>	41	22	19	Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	<u>14.3</u>

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.</u>
Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Abortion.	Nil	Nil

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births.	59
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	61
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	NIL.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY:-

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age.	2
Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births.	39

<u>Deaths under One Year.</u>		
<u>No.</u>	<u>Age.</u>	<u>Cause.</u>
1	3 months.	Chronic Interstitial Pneumonia.
1	4 days.	Cerebral Haemorrhage.
1	5 days	Prematurity.



COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS.

WITHNELL Mean of	Per 1,000 of Estimated Population.				Maternal Mortality Rate.		Rate of Deaths under 1 yr. per 1,000 live births (Infantile Mortality Rate ).
	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death rate from T.B.of Resp: system.	Death Rate from Cancer.	Per 1,000 live births	per 1,000 total live and still births	
Years 1945-1949	16.9	13.5	0.37	1.83	Nil	Nil	22
Year 1948	16.9	9.5	0.70	1.05	Nil	Nil	20
Year 1949	16.3	17.0	0.35	2.42	Nil	Nil	Nil
Year 1950	17.8	14.3	0.35	Nil	Nil	Nil	59
Increase or decrease in 1950 on five years average 1945-49	+ 0.9	+ 0.8	- 0.02	Nil	Nil	Nil	+ 37
Similarly for 1949	+ 1.5	- 2.7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	+ 59
England & Wales. (1950)	15.8	11.6				0.86	29.8

1950 Adjusted Death Rate 13.9 per 1,000. Adjusted Birth Rate 17.2 per 1000

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

<u>Cause.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
T.B. of Resp: System.	1		1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	1		1
Cancer of all other sites.	2	4	6
Intracranial vascular lesions	3	6	9
Heart Disease	8	4	12
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	1	3
Bronchitis.	1	2	3
Pneumonia.		1	1
Other respirating disorders.	1	1	2
All other causes (Defined and Ill-defined Diseases)	3		3
ALL CAUSES.	22	19	41





SECTION B. - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA..

Medical Officer of Health:- J. Walker, M.B., C.H.B., L.D.S., D.P.H., D.P.D.

Other Public Appointments:-

M.O.H. Leyland U.D.C.  
M.O.H. Longridge U.D.C.  
M.O.H. Preston R.D.C.  
Divisional M.O. Health Division No.4.

Remuneration £80 per annum (paid to the Lancashire  
County Council).

Sanitary Inspector:- Cyril Leach Gregson. M.I.H.E., M.S.I.A., C.R.,  
San.I. - a part time officer holding the  
appointment of Surveyor.

Remuneration £217/10/-d per annum.

No other Public Health Officer held office during 1950.

LABORATORY SERVICES:-

The laboratory at Preston Royal Infirmary was available for  
the examination of specimens for the diagnosis of cases of infectious  
disease and for pathological specimens for ordinary diseases.

Similar use of this laboratory was made for the bacteriological  
examination of samples of milk.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of persons of the Tuberculosis Register at the end  
of the year was:-

Type of Tuberculosis.	1950.	1949.	1948.
Pulmonary	17	14	12
Non-Pulmonary	7	6	3

There were four primary notifications (Three Pulmonary,  
one Non-Pulmonary) in 1950, and one death.

One person was removed from the Register.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY. 1950.

Age. Periods.Years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Resp- iratory.		Non- Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5								
10								
15			1					
20		1						
25					1			
35	1							
45	1							
55								
65 upwards.								
totals.	2	1	1		1			



# HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Infectious Diseases were admitted to the Joint Hospital at Heath Charnock - a total of eleven cases were admitted to this Hospital in 1950.

Smallpox cases - there were none - would be admitted to the Ainsworth Hospital at Bury.

## ANALYSIS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Notifiable Disease.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.												Total Deaths.	Removal to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital.	
	Total all Ages.	Age Periods - Years.														
		0-1	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	65				
Smallpox.	Nil															
Scarlet Fever	13			2	5	3	2					1		-	10	-
Diphtheria	Nil															
Measles	1				1									-	-	-
Whooping Cough	6	1	2	1	2											
Acute Pneumonia	5						1		1			2	1	-	-	-
Erysipelas	Nil															
Puerperal Pyrexia	1											1		-	1	-
Continued Fever.	Nil															
Totals.	26	1	2	3	8	3	3		1			4	1	-	11	-





## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### MILK PRODUCTION.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 the inspection and supervision of milk production is now the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

All meat is coming from the Central Depot in Blackburn.

Tinned meat, fruit and vegetables were inspected and in eight cases were voluntarily surrendered for condemnation. No statutory action was necessary.

### BAKEHOUSES.

Six bakehouses exist, and were in good condition during the year.

A resolution to adopt the Clean Food Bye-Laws has been approved, but not implemented.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The supply is obtained from the Liverpool Corporation Waterworks Undertaking from Withnell Reservoir (upland surface water).

876 dwelling houses and an estimated population of 2,800 persons are supplied with this water.

In addition, a further 30 dwelling houses - estimated population 90 - obtain their water from private supplies. There is no report of any cases of infection having arisen due to unsatisfactory water supply during 1950.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There are two Sewerage Disposal Works with settlement tanks and sprinklers, and one Works with settlement tanks and contact beds, the effluent being dealt with by land irrigation. The only areas without proper drainage systems are isolated farms and premises which are a considerable distance from any sewer.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AT END OF 1950.

Privy Middens.	None
Pail Closets	206
Dry Ashpits	58
Moveable Ashbins.	840
Waste Water Closets.	40
Fresh Water Closets	803
Houses on Water Carriage System	652

During 1950 Twenty Two Closets were converted to Fresh Water Closets.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING:-

The collection and disposal of house refuse was carried out weekly by the Council. The refuse was collected by motor lorry and disposed of by controlled tipping.

### SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

The number of inspections for nuisances and for defects during the year was 47, and 51 defects were found. 42 of these were abated, and three informal notices were served. No Statutory Notices were served, and there were no legal proceedings.





## HOUSES AND HOUSING CONDITIONS:-

In 1950 one permanent house was erected by private enterprise.

During the year 47 dwelling houses were inspected for housing defects, and 47 dwelling houses were found "not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation" and of these 42 were rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the officers of the Local Authority.

The main type of house in the area is the cottage type built in rows with either four or five habitable rooms. The main defects are defective roofs, walls, gutters, spouts, and windows, producing dampness.

Overcrowding is generally due to lodgers. For large families the Council is erecting houses to alleviate special cases.

There are five inhabited back to back houses. There are no inhabited back to earth houses.

The Contract for the erection of a further twenty houses is being proceeded with.

There are several houses which, by reason of disrepair and other defects, will probably be scheduled for demolition or for replacement when such is possible.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS:-

General supervision was exercised over the sanitary conveniences and hygiene of the thirteen factories and five "other premises" registered with the Local Authority, and a defect in one factory (insufficiency of sanitary accommodation) was in hand.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The Council owns the Public Baths. The Plunge is 75 feet by 25 feet. Slipper Baths are also provided. There are no privately owned baths.

The new boiler, filtration and chlorination plant has brought the Baths up to a very modern standard, and the water in the Plunge has been excellent throughout the year.

## NEW LEGISLATION INITIATED IN 1950.

### Shops Act, 1950:-

This Act came into force on the 1st October, 1950, and consolidated the previous legislation.

### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

This Act came into force on the 31st March, 1950. The powers of Authorities are strengthened, furnishing them with the means of achieving radical improvement in the control of rats and mice.

-----

